

HONORING ADAM M. ZIMMERMAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Adam M. Zimmerman. Adam is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Adam has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Adam has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Adam has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Adam M. Zimmerman for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING ALETHEIA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY'S BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM AS CHAMPIONS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES DIVISION IV

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Aletheia Christian Academy's Boys Basketball team as Champions of the National Association of Christian Athletes Division IV.

Aletheia Christian Academy is a small school, with a total enrollment of 55 students. While they may be small in number, throughout the course of the tournament, they showed their opponents that hard work, dedication and solid fundamental basketball leads to success.

Along the way, Aletheia Christian Academy faced opponents from larger schools in metropolitan areas. In the semifinals they faced Arthur-Okaw, a perennial powerhouse and 14 time national champion from Chicago. Aletheia's victory in the championship game, against Hamilton Heights, was the school's first National Championship, in its 19th year of existence.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to congratulate the players, coaches, students, faculty and staff at Aletheia Christian Academy. I am certain that this impressive victory will remain a cherished moment in each of their lives.

THE BATTLEFIELD EXCELLENCE THROUGH SUPERIOR TRAINING (BEST) PRACTICES ACT

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I recently reintroduced H.R. 1417, the Battlefield Excellence Through Superior Training Practices Act, or BEST Practices Act. This purpose of this bill is protect our troops and our missions overseas by improving combat trauma training courses administered by the Department of Defense (DoD). Currently, the DoD commonly employs the use of "live tissue," or anesthetized animals, for the training of medics, corpsmen, and an increasing number of non-medical military personnel. This training is suboptimal due to the vast anatomical differences between the animals involved and humans. The BEST Practices Act requires the DoD to phase in the use of human-based methods, such as medical simulation, as a replacement for live tissue training.

It is clear that the DoD is behind the times on this issue. The same procedures taught in combat trauma training courses are taught in the civilian sector almost exclusively without live tissue training. Instead, these trauma centers and medical schools employ superior human-based methods such as high-fidelity medical simulation to teach our top surgeons and other physicians these crucial, life-saving procedures. Studies from civilian hospitals and medical schools demonstrate that simulation is a superior methodology and that physicians who train on simulators make fewer medical errors than those who train on live tissue. Furthermore, institutions that have transitioned to human-based methods have reported a long-term cost savings.

The BEST Practices Act requires the Department of Defense to phase out live tissue training by 2016, which adheres to the agency's own projections regarding available simulation technology. The length of this timeline is crucial—we must ensure that our troops receive the best training possible, but we must not endanger our troops by rushing the transition. That's why this legislation contains a clause requiring an annual report from DoD to Congress on the progress of the transition.

Please join me in supporting the BEST Practices Act—to ensure our military uses the best and most modern training methods available and that our troops are kept safe and able to succeed in their mission and in their lives.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF TENNESSEE GOVERNOR NED RAY MCWHERTER

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of the second longest serving Speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives and the most beloved Tennessee Governor, Ned Ray McWherter. Governor McWherter was born on

October 15, 1930 on a small farm in Palmersville, Tennessee. His tenacious work ethic and his ability to understand the problems of working people would lead him to become a revered Tennessee politician and successful entrepreneur as well.

Ned McWherter grew up the son of a sharecropper and went on to work diligently at his family's restaurant, the Hotdog, at a shoe manufacturing company and as a traveling shoe salesman. In 1973, he found Volunteer Express with just two tractors, five trailers and three employees. He grew Volunteer Express to become one of the first LTL niche carriers in the nation by offering second and third day service to and from the East Coast. He also developed the entirety of the state of Tennessee and the surrounding areas into Volunteer Express' marketplace. This coming August, Volunteer Express will celebrate its 38th anniversary.

Although he worked hard throughout his life as a successful businessman, Ned never forgot his rural upbringing nor did he lose his love for everyday working people in Tennessee. McWherter served in the Tennessee National Guard from 1948–1969 and retired with the rank of Captain. In 1968, he ran unopposed to represent the citizens of Weakley County in the Tennessee House of Representatives. After serving only two terms, McWherter challenged the incumbent speaker of the House and won the speakership by one vote in both the Democratic caucus and the full House. He served in that position for 14 years, the longest tenure for a Tennessee Speaker of the House at that time.

In 1986, McWherter ran for governor and unseated Republican Winfield Dunn. Governor McWherter had a progressive agenda that was positively felt across Tennessee and closely watched by governors in neighboring states. As a champion for education and road projects, he put his slogan "Schools plus roads equal jobs" into action. He restructured and grew K–12 public school funding by 49 percent through his "21st Century Schools Program." This program put money directly into classrooms and funded textbooks, computers and more teachers. His "95-County Jobs Program" was the largest road-building program in Tennessee's history. It linked all the counties of Tennessee via four-lane roads and stimulated jobs in rural areas across the state.

Growing up in a lower income family at the height of the Great Depression, Ned understood the challenges hard working families faced when it came to affordable health care. As governor, McWherter revamped Medicaid services in Tennessee to include coverage of more than one million Tennesseans, up from about 800,000. President Bill Clinton noted how Governor McWherter "blazed a trail" with his reform of Tennessee's Medicaid program.

While I served as a Senator in the Tennessee Senate, I was proud to have worked with Governor McWherter on many projects that helped my city, Memphis. Gov. McWherter included funding in the budget he presented to the Tennessee General Assembly for the conversion of the Lorraine Motel, the site of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to the National Civil Rights Museum. He supported funding for the Memphis Zoo, a place he visited often as a child and of which he had fond memories. Gov. McWherter was also supportive of the arts, requesting